

REMARKS

The present application was filed on November 28, 2000 with claims 1-31. Claims 1, 10, 13, 19, 22 and 26 are the independent claims.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner: (i) rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,917,830 to Chen et al. (hereinafter "Chen") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,099,319 to Esch et al. (hereinafter "Esch"); (ii) rejected claims 2, 3, 7, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,892,535 to Allen et al. (hereinafter "Allen"); (iii) rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,524,001 to Beaudry et al. (hereinafter "Beaudry"); (iv) rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,577,716 to Minter et al. (hereinafter "Minter") in view of Beaudry; (v) rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,260,778 to Kauffman et al. (hereinafter "Kauffman"); (vi) rejected claims 5, 19, 20, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of Minter; (vii) rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of Allen in view of Kauffman; (viii) rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,615,408 to Kaiser et al. (hereinafter "Kaiser"); (ix) rejected claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Kaiser in view of Allen in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0013124 A1 to Klosterman et al. (hereinafter "Klosterman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,446,261 to Rosser (hereinafter "Rosser"); (x) rejected claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of Allen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,781,228 to Sposato (hereinafter "Sposato"); (xi) rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of Allen in view of Rosser; (xii) rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of Allen in view of Kaiser; (xiii) rejected claims 21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of Minter in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,408,163 to Fik (hereinafter "Fik"); (xiv) rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being patentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,585,858 to Harper et al. (hereinafter "Harper")

in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,546,556 to Kataoka et al. (hereinafter “Kataoka”); (xv) rejected claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of Allen in view of Kauffman; (xvi) rejected claims 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of Allen in view of Kauffman in view of Sposato; (xvii) rejected claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of Allen in view of Kauffman in view of Rosser; and (xviii) rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Esch in view of Allen in view of Kauffman in view of Kaiser.

Moreover, the Examiner objected to various informalities in claims 5, 6, 16, 21, 24 and 25. The Examiner also objected to the length of the Abstract. Applicants have addressed these objections in the amendments to the claims and to the specification.

With respect to the §103(a) rejections, Applicants amend certain claims to further define the subject matter of the invention. In addition, Applicants cancel claims 6, 20, 21 and 23-25 without prejudice. Applicants request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks.

Applicants amend independent claims 1, 10, 13, 19, 22 and 26 such that the element “tags” is further defined as “one or more first tags” and “one or more second tags.” The two types of tags are disclosed in the specification as originally filed on, for example, p. 6, lines 13-15. Applicants have also amended the independent claims such that each system, method and program explicitly includes a limitation wherein “second tags in the tables” can be processed “to modify at least a portion of at least one of the one or more first tags.” This element is also clearly disclosed in the specification as originally filed, see, for example: p. 6, lines 22-23; p. 14, lines 6-23; p. 15, line 30 - p. 16, line 3; p. 17, lines 4-22; and FIG. 8, element 616.

Applicants submit that the above amendments to independent claims 1, 10, 13, 19, 22 and 26 place these claims in condition for allowance over the references cited by the Examiner. For example, independent claim 1 is rejected under §103(a) over Chen in view of Esch. Chen, the primary §103(a) reference for all the independent claims, describes an “external start signal indicating the desired starting time of the insertion in the main stream” and an “external signal indicating the desired ending time of the insertion in the main stream” (Chen, col. 6, line 66 - col.

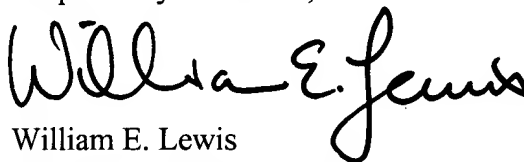
7, line 2). However, Chen fails to teach or suggest a second tag modifying a first tag. Likewise, Esch describes "schedule data tags" (Esch, col. 4, lines 16-17), but also fails to teach one type of tag modifying another type of tag. Therefore, Chen and Esch fail to teach or suggest each and every element of independent claim 1 as amended.

Furthermore, Applicants assert that neither Allen, Beaudry, Minter, Kauffman, Kaiser, Klosterman, Rosser, Sposato, Fik, Harper or Kataoka remedy the above-stated deficiencies of Chen and Esch.

Applicants have also amended certain corresponding dependent claims so that terminology therein is consistent with their respective independent claims. Applicants respectfully submit that all the dependent claims in the present application are allowable based on their respective amended independent claims. However, Applicants believe that such dependent claims also recite additional separately-patentable subject matter in their own right.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-5, 7-19, 22 and 26-31 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the various objections and the various § 103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,



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